NH
352.07
N874
1883

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN, TREASURER,

BOARD OF EDUCATION,

AND

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS,

OF THE

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1883.

1883.
CHAS. F. HILL, PRINTER AND STATIONER—OFFICE AT RESIDENCE.

NH
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ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD.

Account of Money furnished Franklin J. Eastman, Town Treasurer.

The Selectmen charge said Treasurer as follows:

Cash balance, March 1st, 1882,	$2,606 03
Received of C. E. Tilton,	250 00
Iona Savings Bank,	500 00
Concord Savings Banks,	333 65
Rev. John Lambert,	34 00
Mrs. Mary E. Lamson,	52 00
State Treasurer, R. R. tax,	358 62
" " Savings Bank tax,	792 39
" " Literary Fund,	65 78
Granite Mills, Highway tax,	83 85
County of Merrimack,	257 97
Bounties reimbursed,	15 50
Old Bridge Timber,	31 81
G. S. Abbott, back taxes,	117 31
" " Tax List of 1882,	5,858 58
" " on Highway Surveyors' lists '81,	28 21
	$11,385 70

CREDIT ACCOUNT.

Coupons paid by Treasurer,	$1,080 00

Orders have been given on the Treasurer, by the Selectmen, to meet demands against the town, as follows:

State tax,	$1,000 00
County tax,	1,125 00
	$2,125 00

PARSONAGE INTEREST.

Daniel S. Clay, Congregational Society,	$5 50
William H. Clough, Methodist "	5 50
William P. Fletcher, Episcopal "	5 50
Benjamin A. Winslow, Baptist "	5 50
	$22 00

SCHOOL MONEY.

Dist. No. 1 Francis Stevens, Committee,	$113 48
" 2 Frank W. Hurlburt, "	117 03
" 3 Byron Shaw, " (part of arrearage)	127 50
" 4 George M. Riley, "	92 02
" 5 John Chamberlain, "	100 24
" 6 Clyde A. Gile, "	94 17
" 7 Moses F. Winslow, "	84 17
" 8 Albert H. Tebbetts, "	36 70
Union District, Daniel M. Page, "	315 54
Marden Settlement, John Ham, "	5 50
	$1,086 35

HIGHWAYS.

Edgar O. Downing, labor,	$6 80
John R. Woodbury, "	8 21
Charles W. Plummer, "	3 74
John J. Brown, "	5 25
Jeremiah E. Smith, stone work for Iron Bridges,	290 00
William Roby, labor,	5 20
Albert H. Tebbetts, "	1 25
John Roberts, "	10 00
Batchelder & Robinson, bridge plank,	25 59
Stephen D. Shirley, labor,	95

Richard Dearborn, labor,	$4 50
B. P. Simonds, plank and timber,	78 32
John H. Dinsmore, labor,	3 00
Jedediah C. Abbott, "	1 60
O. C. Wyatt, "	4 00
Edward R. Glines, "	1 50
John B. Marden, "	50
Frank Collins, "	1 50
Benjamin Glines, "	9 63
Charles Dearborn, "	1 50
C. T. French, "	2 25
J. K. Hancock, breaking Fellows' road, 1881,	15 00
Charles W. Bartlett, repairing bridge,	3 00
Smith G. Wadleigh, labor,	9 63
George S. Philbrick, breaking Belmont road,	2 00
John S. Winslow, working non-resident tax,	5 85
Thomas R. Payson, labor,	3 00
Gawn E. Gorrell, "	14 00
John S. Winslow, "	11 00
Albert H. Tebbetts, "	1 62
Frank Simonds, drawing lumber,	2 00
John T. Brown, labor,	3 25
James T. Downing "	1 25
Clough Gorrell, ox work,	3 00
F. J. Eastman, cash paid for labor, and drain pipe,	50 65
Willie C. Bryant, labor,	14 00
W. S. Hill, labor and material,	86 82
Otis C. Wyatt,	2 25
Corrugated Metal Co., iron railing,	195 00
" " " bridges,	2,604 40
Charles W. Bartlett, labor,	14 70
G. A. Wheeler, labor,	1 14
Jeremiah E. Smith, stone work,	65 55
George E. Davis, labor,	3 00
John S. Dearborn, non-resident tax worked,	10 00
Byron Shaw, covering stone, &c.,	2 75
Alpheus Keniston, labor,	90
	$3,591 05

SUPPORT OF THE POOR.

N. H. Asylum, for Julia M. Whitcher,	$125 79
George Collins, board of Mrs. Gilman Bennett,	10 42
J. J. Prescott, board of Ruhamah Prescott,	52 00
Sarah B. Smith, for Mrs. John Piper,	17 00
Caroline G. Clark, board of Mrs. Bennett,	92 00
H. K. Thompson, coffin, &c., for Collins girl,	8 00
Philbrick & Hill, for John R. Woodbury's family,	5 00
" " transient person,	8 45
" " Clothing for Mrs. Prescott,	3 82
" " for Benj. Collins, family,	2 00
Hill & Fletcher, for Fanny Dinsmore,	52 00
" " " Jonathan Keniston,	6 50
" " " Fred Keniston,	5 00
" " " Mrs. Bennett, shoes,	75
Richard Dearborn, opening grave for Collins girl,	2 00
Simeon Mason, assistance at funeral of "	1 50
James N. Forrest, hay for Woodbury,	5 00
C. R. Gould, medical attendance, County Paupers,	105 75
David Brown, moving Mrs. Bennett,	3 00
J. J. Prescott, board of Mrs. Prescott, four weeks in 1883,	4 00
	$509 98

CURRENT EXPENSES.

Obe G. Morrison, Supervisor,	$5 00
Otis C. Wyatt, "	5 00
Oscar P. Sanborn, "	5 00
James N. Forrest, board of Selectmen,	7 00
Daniel E. Hill, Auditor,	2 00
Gardner S. Abbott, "	2 00
J. B. Sanborn, Surveyor's books, &c.,	5 80
Roscoe E. Collins, printing report,	28 60
Z. C. Perkins, insuring Town House,	12 00
J. P. Morrison, care of Town House,	3 00
Otis C. Wyatt, Supervisor, Nov.,	5 00
" " for blank check-lists,	1 00
G. W. Abbott, selling old timber,	1 00
S. A. Clark, Decoration appropriation,	25 00
W. A. Bucklin, certificate of birth,	25

Oscar P. Sanborn, Supervisor, Nov.,	$5 00
G. A. Stevens, stationery, prescriptions, school-books, etc.,	4 12
Philbrick & Hill, for wood, nails, &c.,	8 16
Hill & Fletcher, nails,	36
Stephen Staples, Police service,	5 50
G. B. Munsey, printing,	75
Frank Hill, damage to team,	15 00
Z. C. Perkins, board bill,	3 00
Chas. F. Hill, printing,	5 30
Hiram I. Glines, for public watering tub,	3 00
Mrs. L. R. H. Cross, school books,	75
L. D. Miller, care of Town House,	2 00
" " preparing wood,	1 50
Franklin J. Eastman, expenses as surveyor,	6 79
Mrs. L. R. H. Cross, services as S. S. Committee,	35 00
Charles W. Tilton, Town Clerk,	35 00
Franklin J. Eastman, Treasurer,	30 00
John S. Winslow, Selectman, service and expense,	30 00
Gawn E. Gorrell, " " " "	62 00
James N. Forrest, " " " "	125 00
	$485 88

EXPENSE AND COSTS IN SUITS.—LYFORD vs. TOWN.

Paid witness fees, Magistrate taking depositions, &c.,	$48 77
Execution vs. Town,	55 29
W. D. Hardy,	25 00
	$129 06
Paid Bounty on crows,	$8 30

Statement of Account with Gardner S. Abbott, Collector, for the year ending March 1st, 1883.

Whole amount committed, April, 1882,	$6,148 07	
Paid Treasurer,		$5,858 58
Non-resident Highway receipts collected,		78 22
Fees for collecting,		93 00
Abated,		28 03
Uncollected,		90 24
		$6,148 07

Collected on preceeding lists,	$117 31
Collected on Highway Surveyor's books, tax of 1881,	$28 21

Tax Authorized.

Warrant of State Treasurer,	$1,000 00
" County Treasurer,	1,125 00
Vote of Town, March, 1882,	2,500 00
Decoration appropriation,	25 00
Parsonage interest,	22 00
School fund interest,	42 00
School money required,	875 00
	$5,589 00
Five per cent. added,	279 45
Legal limit,	$5,868 45

Assessment List committed to Collector.

Resident, money,	$4,900 97	
Non-resident, money,	912 58	
Dog tax,	52 00	
		$5,865 55
Non-resident highway tax,		282 52
		$6,148 07

Rate of taxation, $1.26, money ; and .39 highway. Inclusive, $1.65
Per cent. 1881, $1.72. Reduction, .07 per hundred.

Invoice, April, 1882.

266 Polls,	$266,000
194 Horses,	9,907
96 Oxen,	4,774
353 Cows,	7,745
271 other Neat stock,	4,429
624 Sheep,	1,669
8 Hogs,	60
16 Carriages,	900
Stock in Banks,	4,000
" Trade,	13,050
Machinery,	12,000
Money at interest,	26,490

Real Estate,		$349,605
		$461,229
Invoice, 1881,		443,644
Increase,		$17,585
$461,229 x $1.26=	$5,811.48	
Dog tax,	52.00	
		$5,863 48

The Selectmen are of the opinion that, with careful management of the finances, an appropriation of $2,000. by the town, with our other usual resources, will be ample to meet the ordinary expenses, and cancel the present floating debt, which will amount to about $1,500. March 1st, 1884. The expense of finishing the iron bridges, and approaches thereto, has been larger than was anticipated one year ago; but we have been able to meet that, and considerable other extra outlay and, make a *solid* reduction of $1,500. on the indebtedness with the appropriation of $2,500.

The payment, next May, of $5,800. town bonds, will reduce the interest account about $300., and this reduction, with extras cut away, will warrant a reduction of $500. on the tax to be raised next April.

We would suggest to the town a more considerate management of the highways. We believe that a less number of Surveyors, carefully selected, and held to a strict account, would put our roads in a much better condition with a given sum to be expended.

Some of the districts, under the present arrangement, have quite a large sum to lay out on short routes, while others have only a fraction of tax, and long roads *to travel over*. As examples of extremes, take the districts near Tilton village, on the one hand, and the Fellows' and the "Misery" districts on the other. An appropriation of $2,000., rightly expended, would not only place our thoroughfares in good repair, but would cut off an *endless* drain upon the treasury.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES N. FORREST,
GAWN E. GORRELL,
JOHN S. WINSLOW,
} SELECTMEN OF NORTHFIELD.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The tax-payers of Northfield can congratulate themselves on a reduction of the town debt the current year amounting to sixteen hundred and thirty-eight dollars.

But for the extra expense in erecting suitable railings to the approaches of the two iron bridges, re-planking the one near Cross' mills, and the cost incident to a couple of law-suits, the decrease would have been larger.

As it now stands two-thirds of the maximum indebtedness—that of 1868—has been liquidated.

From and since that period we have acquired a comfortable Town House, provided with an excellent fire-proof vault, and paid our share of the cost in erecting two modern wrought-iron bridges.

The resources available in Savings Banks, and cash on hand, are sufficient to take up the ten year series of bonds maturing May 1, 1883, and discharge the interest on the whole amount issued to date.

These two items call for six thousand, three hundred and forty dollars; ($6,340.) and there will then be left in the Treasury about $400. for use in current expenses. This fund, which began to accumulate from the taxes assessed April, 1879, will by May 1st, 1883, have earned the town in interest over four hundred dollars, and one hundred, nearly, by taxation.

From May 1st, 1883, our payment of interest will lessen $348. annually, on account of the payment of bonds due at that time.

With smaller liabilities the question presents itself whether or no taxes can be reduced.

With the same valuation and appropriations for the coming year, without extraordinary demands for money from unforeseen causes, our debt, March 1st, 1884, above means, will not probably exceed $11,000.

The credit of the town is of such a character that its outstanding bonds, having either five or ten years to run, cannot be purchased unless at a large premium.

The major part of this total $12,200. we may safely calculate is salted, and will remain so until maturity. That the town should, by a sinking fund accumulating each year, provide for our time obligations in annual installments, seems reasonable and prudent.

The deposit of such funds in neighboring Savings Institutions is suggested to the favorable consideration of the town. The rate of interest is not large, yet we derive a yearly income of one per cent. on such deposits from taxes collected by the state, equaling five per cent. in all. In the four years past we have paid the usual expenses of the town, nearly $3,000. on bridges and have saved fully $5,000. from the taxes collected.

Taking this period as a basis, the same average rate of taxation and of expenses, six years will create a fund amply sufficient to dispose of all indebtedness.

To illustrate—there has been a saving, say $3,000. in bridges, $5,000. in cash assets—making $8,000; or $2,000. per annum.

We have allowed for $1,400. cash borrowed in the computation.

$2,000	deposited Mar. 1,	1884,	worth Mar. 1,	1889,	$2,430 05
"	" "	1885,	"	"	2,336 51
"	" "	1886,	"	"	2,246 73
"	" "	1887,	"	"	2,160 32
"	" "	1888,	"	"	2,080 00
"	" "	1889,	"	"	2,000 00
					$13,253 61

More than this, $348.00 interest will not recur after May, of the present year, and that amount saved from the average of the last four years expenses, deposited at four per cent. yearly, would amount in six years to more than two thousand dollars in addition.

Now, if six years taxation, at present rates, with ordinary prosperity will extinguish our indebtedness, or provide funds to do so, would it not be proper to consider the propriety of so adjusting our appropriations that eight years shall answer the requirement instead of six?

A reduction of five or six hundred dollars, annually, would lighten the burden of the tax-payer. Eight or ten per cent., in the opinion of your treasurer, taken off, will leave abundant means for present or prospective obligations, unless from cause, extraordinary claims appear against the town.

It is proper to mention that the Collector, Gardner S. Abbott, Esq., has collected the full amount of the tax bill of 1882, except a few abatements and some fifty dollars which will be forth-coming. The amounts estimated good by the Selectmen, on the bills of 1880 and 1881, have been more than realized.

When it is taken into account that persistence and good nature have been the only means to produce these results—that legal process or unkind words have not been agencies at any time—we deem he is entitled to be proclaimed a model collector.

We respectfully submit these comments, and the tables herewith.

F. J. EASTMAN, TREASURER.

Town of Northfield in Account with F. J. Eastman, Treasurer.

March 1, 1882.	CR.	
By cash on hand,	$2,606 03	
" of Charles E. Tilton,	250 00	
" drawn from Iona Savings Bank,	500 00	
" " Concord Savings Bank,	333 65	
" from Father Lambert,	34 00	
" from Mrs. Lamson,	52 00	
" Railroad tax,	358 62	
" Savings Bank tax,	792 39	
" Literary fund,	65 78	
" County, reimbursement,	257 97	
" Granite Mills tax, and old timber,	110 40	
" Additional sales bridge timber,	5 26	
" Bounties,	15 50	
" Tax of 1880,	14 78	
" " 1881,	102 53	
" " 1882,	5,858 58	
" Highway tax in District No. 26,	28 21	
		$11,385 70

	Dr.	
Paid State tax,	$1000 00	
County tax,	1,125 00	
1881 Coupons, out-standing,	27 00	
" " for May, 1882,	540 00	
" " for Nov. 1882,	513 00	
on Orders,	5,832 62	
Cash on hand,	2,348 08	
		$11,385 70

Financial Standing of Northfield.

Liabilities.

Bonds becoming due May 1, 1883,	$5,800 00	
" " " 1888,	6,100 00	
" " " 1893,	6,100 00	
Interest to March 1, 1883,	360 00	
Coupons not presented,	27 00	
Due School District No. 3,	321 54	
Notes, principal and interest,	1,406 41	
Due from dog tax,	40 00	
Settlement of Lyford suit,	100 00	
		$20,254 95

Assets.

Cash on hand,	$2,348 08	
in Franklin Savings Bank,	2,124 65	
in Iona Savings Bank,	2,258 12	
Uncollected taxes,	50 00	
Indebtedness March 1,	13,374 10	
Claims against the City of Concord,	100 00	
		$20,254 95

Town debt, 1882,	$15,013 03	
" " 1883,	13,374 10	
Reduction the past year,		$1,638 93

Paid Town Officers.—Including Services and Expenses.

James N. Forrest, Selectman,	$125 00	
Gawn E. Gorrell, "	62 00	
John S. Winslow, "	30 00	
Charles W. Tilton, Town Clerk,	35 00	
F. J. Eastman, Treasurer,	30 00	
Mrs. L. R. H. Cross, Supt. of Schools,	35 00	
O. C. Wyatt, Supervisor, and blanks,	11 00	
O. P. Sanborn, "	10 00	
O. G. Morrison, "	5 00	
		$343 00

Comparative Statement of Receipts for 1882 and '83, from Railroad, Savings Bank and Literary Fund Taxes.

Savings Bank Tax.

1882,	$783 81	
1883,	792 39	Gain, $8.58

Railroad Tax.

1882,	$455 35	
1383,	358 62	Loss, $96.73

Literary Fund.

1882,	$86 00	
1883,	65 78	Loss, $20.22

Amount of Taxes collected each Month, etc., for 1882.

May,	$126 00	
June,	103 00	
July,	330 00	
August,	490 00	
September,	440 00	
October,	704 00	
November,	700 00	
December,	953 00	
January, 1883.	621 00	
February, "	1391 58	
District No. 26, Highway taxes, 1881,	28 21	
On tax bill of "	102 53	
" " 1880,	14 78	
		$6,004 10

Auditors' Report.

We, the subscribers, having examined the foregoing accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer, for the year ending March 1, 1883, respectfully submit that we find the same correctly cast and properly vouched.

The following is a Statement of the financial condition of the Town :

The Selectmen charge the Treasurer with having rec'd $11,385 70

Of this amount the Treasurer discharges himself as follows:

Paid State tax,	$1,000 00
" County tax,	1,125 00
" Parsonage Interest,	22 00
" School Money,	1,086 35
" For Highways,	3,591 05
" " Support of Poor,	509 98
" Current Expenses,	485 88
" Two Suits, Lyford v. Town,	129 06
" Bounty on Crows,	8 30
" Coupons,	1,080 00
	$9,037 62
Leaving a balance in the hands of Treasuer,	$2,348 08

The Liabilities of the Town are as follows:

Town Bonds,	$18,000 00
Interest on same from Nov. 1, to date,	360 00
Out-standing coupons,	27 00
Due School district No. 3,	321 54
Mrs. S. W. Glines, note,	954 60
Mrs. John M. Watts, note,	346 14
Adelaide S. Morrison, note,	105 67
Dog tax, due for damage to sheep,	40 00
Due on suit for damage, Lyford v. Town,	100 00
	$20,254 95

Available Means.

Cash in hands of the Treasurer,		$2,348 08
Taxes estimated good,		50 00
Deposit in Iona Savings Bank,		2,258 12
" Franklin "		2,124 65
Claim against City of Concord,		100 00
Liabilities,	$20,254 95	
Available means,	6,880 85	
		$13,374 10
Indebtedness, March 1, 1883,		15,013 03
Reduction of debt,	$1,638 92	

Respectfully submitted,

LYMAN B. FELLOWS,
JASON FOSS,
OTIS C. WYATT,
} AUDITORS.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

FOR UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT.

The citizens of Union District will heartily join with their Board of Education in expressions of gratitude for the generous donation of Maps, Charts, Globes, &c., made to our school-room by the Hon. John H. Goodale and W. T. Cass, Esq., Executors of the Mooney estate. These gentlemen will please accept the gratitude hereby tendered to them. As all the other schools of Northfield have shared liberally in similar donations, the people of that town should certainly, and do, feel themselves under lasting obligations to these patrons.

The friends of Union District have much reason also, for gratulation that concrete walks have been extended to the very gates of the school-yard; thus adding so much to the convenience of the many little folks who would otherwise have to wade through mud and slush for many days of the year to reach the school-room.

Only one thing more is needed to perfect this improvement—a wide concrete walk through the yard to the doors of the school building. It is hoped that some way may be provided in the early summer to complete this much needed improvement.

We have to regret that our funds this year obliged us to cut short our winter term to $7\frac{1}{2}$ weeks, when there should have been at least 12 weeks.

It is very desirable and exceedingly important that more liberal supplies of money be provided, so that we may have two terms of 11 weeks, and the winter term of 12 weeks, in the year.

If all the parents could be frequent visitors in the school-rooms, we think they would become so interested and enthusiastic that they would readily vote the additional necessary funds.

It is not well that so many children should be out of school for a month in the latter part of winter—a season when they can find nothing of advantage to do. In the summer the larger scholars can find some useful employment.

High commendation is due the teachers for the very enjoyable entertainment given by their scholars in the Town Hall at the close of the last term. The whole affair was admirably planned, and finely executed. The teachers must have been untiring and persistent in their efforts, and the scholars certainly performed their part well. A large and enthusiastic audience seemed to appreciate the exhibition highly. The proceeds, amounting to $34.00 are to be appropriated in the purchase of an organ for the Union School.

The Board of Education, at the opening of the past school year, secured the services of the two former teachers, Miss Marion E. Lyford, in the Grammar, and Miss Alice P. Wyman, in the Primary departments; both of whom have maintained, to a high degree, the popularity heretofore justly attributed to them.

In the Grammar school the pupils have made very commendable proficiency, especially so during the last term. Orderly in their deportment, ready in recitation, manifesting the highest respect for the teacher, they are entitled to high commendations. It was a very pleasant school to visit. Twelve of the puplis were reported as having abstained from unlawful whispering during the last term; a very excellent thing for them to do. We hope next term not one will fail of doing the same thing. Much might be said in praise of this school.

In the Primary department, to Miss Wyman's school of fifty-two pupils words of the very highest praise are due. Full of enthusiasm, under the most perfect discipline, most of them very industrious and learning rapidly, the school was one of the very best.

It was always a treat to look in upon them. Of the fifty-two scholars only six or eight were known to indulge in unlawful whispering during the term. Of the excellent qualifications of this teacher for the Primary work no words of ours can be an exageration. It is a question if her superior can be found. It would assuredly be for the interest of the Union District if her services could be continued.

The Intermediate school at the opening of the last year passed into the charge of a new and untried teacher, Miss Georgie E. Page, a graduate of the N. H. Conference Seminary, of the class of 1881. It was a heavy responsibility to assume, a difficult task to undertake ; but, though much the hardest of the three schools, we find that it has been managed well. The discipline has been commendable ; the teaching thorough ; the proficiency satisfactory. The teacher takes to her work easily and naturally, and of her first years' work has made a success. The future will doubtless be increasingly so, as her experience shall mature.

Seventeen have abstained from whispering during the last term.

ROLL OF HONOR.

PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Etta Dolly.
Alice Dennis.
Ina Moore.
Georgia Wardsworth.
Herbert Dolly.
Charlie Avery.
Etta Staples.
Mary Balcom.
Linnie Wardsworth.
Mabel Stevens.
Herbert Rogers.
Charlie Root.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

Florence Hill.
Arthur Staples.
Annie Smith.
George Rogers.
Cora Winch.
Metta Wilkins.
Clara Bailey.
Oscar Bailey.
Frank Balcom.
Willie Bean.
Charles Fletcher.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Frank Powers.
John Senter.
Goodhold Perthel.
Sarah Kane.
Maud Moore.
Eva Hill.
Jed. Hunkins.
Leon Peabody.
Clara Staples.
Ellen Moore.
Mertie Tucker.
Edith Baxter.

TABLE OF STATISTICS.

PRIMARY SCHOOL.	1st. Term.	2d. Term.	3d. Term.
Length of School in weeks,	11	11	7½
Whole No. of Scholars,	55	55	52
Average attendance,	49.94	52.95	44.92
No. in Reading,	55	55	52
" Spelling,	55	55	52
" Penmanship,	15	25	30
" Arithmetic,	55	55	52
" Geography,	30	30	30
" Drawing,	..	55	52
" Vocal Music,	55	55	52
No. one-half day absences,	397	280	73
" not absent or tardy,	6	7	12
" visits by the Board for the year,	..	..	13
" Parents, and others,	..	..	97

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.	1st. Term.	2d. Term.	3d. Term.
Length in weeks,	11	11	7½
Whole No. of scholars,	29	31	29
Average attendance,	27	29	28
Number in Reading,	29	31	29
" Spelling,	29	31	29
" Penmanship,	29	31	29
" Arithmetic,	29	31	28
" Geography,	28	31	29
" Grammar,	29	31	29
" Vocal Music,	29	31	29
" Composition,	29	31	29
" Drawing,	29	31	29
Number one-half day absences,	193	200	78
" Not absent or tardy,	7	7	12
" Visits of Board for year,	..	..	22
" " Parents, and others,	..	..	73

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.	1st. Term.	2d. Term.	3d. Term.
Length in weeks,	11	11	7½
Whole No. Scholars,	22	23	23
Average Attendance,	21	20.3	22.1
Number in Reading,	22	22	22
" Spelling,	22	22	23
" Penmanship,	22	23	23
" Arithmetic,	22	23	23
" Geography,	16	..	10
" Grammar,	20	..	23
" History,	4	..	10
" Composition,	22	..	23
Number one-half day absences,	86	85	34
" Not absent or tardy,	7	3	12
" Visits by Board for year,	..	..	10
" " Parents and others,	..	..	17

March 1st, 1881.

D. M. PAGE,
N. P. PHILBROOK,
W. D. HARDY,
} BOARD OF EDUCATION.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

CITIZENS OF NORTHFIELD :

Again it becomes my duty to place before you some facts in relation to our public schools.

Your Committee was prevented, by sickness, from visiting some of the schools in the early part of the year, and wishes in this manner to express thanks to G. E. Gorrell, Esq., for valuable services rendered.

I can report no marked failures, though there have been various degrees of success.

Our schools are still suffering from too frequent changes in teachers. In no instance have last years instructors been retained. Let us for a moment apply this foolish custom to other business.

Suppose No. 9 decides to build a new school house—turn and turn about is the rule. The first workman intends to make house-building his calling for life ; has pursued those branches necessary to fit him for a first-class workman, but as yet has no practical knowledge of architecture. He goes to work without plan or schedule, projects a window here and there, as suits a passing fancy. Here a porch and there a projection. But his time is up, and a second takes up his work—a bungler,—with nothing to recommend him but a good chest of tools, inherited from his father ; knowing little or nothing of their use, but hoping in some way to learn.

The next is an experienced and careful workman, who is obliged to spend the whole of his allotted time in tearing away and straightening up what the others have so weakly and clumsily built. One uses wood, another brick, while still another forgetting the use of plumb and level, tops out the edefice and leaves it, not "a thing of beauty" and "a joy forever" but a miserable, uncouth, positively dangerous, many sided monument of selfishness and folly.

But these are perishable things. How criminally foolish, when it is the character of our sons and daughters that are being thus distorted and ruined.

There are still too many absences. 1066 on an enrollment of 101 is by far too great a loss. I am confident that, besides the mental loss, many a child has been injured for all future life by unpunctual habits acquired in school days.

Let us note a single instance. John is absent three days because his boots need mending, or some other equally poor excuse; and is tardy the fourth morning. He must needs inquire where his lessons are for the day, and so interrupts some half dozen to get the desired information. Long Division was passed over in his absence; and, consequently, everything involving that principle stops him. He cannot understand the lessons; comes to his class with little knowledge of the subject in hand, thus demanding more of the teacher's time than is rightfully his. Drags along; gets discouraged, drops into a lower class, and leaves school.

Some of the teachers who presented themselves for examination were not as familiar with the rudiments as was desirable. I have received cards from teachers the past year with scarcely less than a half dozen misspelled words on them, and no punctuation at all.

Do you ask me why I granted Certificates? Ask the voters in those districts, where the teachers were selected before school meeting even, and Committees chosen accordingly.

Correct reading embraces a knowledge of those peculiar tones of voice adapted to convey the sense of what is read to the hearer, and a child is not ready for a new reading book when he has merely learned to pronounce the words in the old one.

I have found pupils less than ten years old, in some of our schools, using the sixth reader.

Too little has been done in Mental Arithmetic the past year. Many pupils drop it entirely when they commence "to cipher" as they term it. Classes have been too much confined to the text-book, and the whole work not practical enough.

The prizes offered in this branch by Prof. Quimby, were productive of much earnest work, and though the work shown at the examination may not have been of so high an order as desired, I am confident there was a great benefit.

Progress in penmanship has been quite marked in many schools.

In no branch have the results been so unsatisfactory as in language, and I fear we shall never get on the right track until we have some Normal teachers.

It is no unusual thing for a teacher to put question after question, easy and clear to a class without eliciting a response. I have found schools where this was so generally the case that I could hardly judge either of proficiency or progress. Some of our teachers are skillful in finding ways out of this difficulty, and I am very sure that the little girls in the Graded School, who rose in their seats, during my visit there with the State Superintendent, and told their little stories of twos and threes so grammatically and readily, will not so lack for language when they grow older.

One of our teachers had a novel way of telling her classes wrong, when they hesitated, until it was hard to tell which was the more critical, teacher or pupil.

One of the pleasantest occurrences of the year was the visit of the State Superintendent. I regret there were not more schools in session. His able lecture, however, was listened to by many of the parents; and, I trust will be productive of much good.

Thanking citizens, parents, teachers, and pupils for courtesies and kind co-operation, I am

Very Respectfully, yours,

LUCY R. H. CROSS,

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

District No. 1.—Center.

Both terms taught by Etta F. Heath.

It would be impossible to say too much in praise of Miss H's methods of teaching, or results achieved. She has had large experience, and any school is fortunate to secure her services.

District No. 2.—Bay Hill.

Both terms taught by Nettie M. Hurlburt.

This school never comes quite up to the mark. I hope the boy from the adjoining district, whose name is *alone* on the Roll of Honor, will be there again and see if others will not be tempted to follow his example.

A school where the Prudential Committee makes no visit for the year, and but one parent has interest enough to cross the threshold, can not be expected to bubble over with enthusiasm, under any teacher however faithful or earnest.

District No. 3.—Hodgdon.

First term taught by Laura A. Rice.

This was her first experience, but she brought good methods and a good stock of energy to her work, and achieved good results. What might have been accomplished, had it not been for an unfortunate neighborhood quarrel, I cannot say.

Second term taught by Jennie E. Davis, a teacher of large experience, correct methods and an earnest, faithful and intelligent worker. This school is too small to be interesting, but has done a good years work.

District No. 4.—Rand.

Both terms taught by Clara A. Maxfield.

The life and energy of this school when properly directed have always resulted in good progress, and though there was no especial disorder at the closing examinations, yet the continual borrowing of books, slates and pencils, the incessant asking of questions rendered it the *busiest* school of the year, and peculiar in this regard. The classes showed commendable progress, and the teacher seemed patient and faithful.

District No. 5.—Oak Hill.

Both terms taught by Nellie S. French.

This is by far the hardest school in town. The great number of classes renders it impossible for the teacher or pupils to do as critical work as might be done in a smaller and better graded school.

There was much earnest work done by teacher and pupils, and good results therefrom.

The improvement in writing was quite marked.

District No. 6.—Bean Hill.

Both terms taught by Belle W. Gile, who has taught this school many terms with good success.

There is an increase in numbers and interest here. A class of smart little ones, will, in a few years place this school among the first in town.

District No. 7.—Pond.

Both terms terms taught by Lucy R. H. Cross.

Attendance good, and progress excellent. This school leads in blackboard work, especially that done by the smaller pupils. All but two, on the Roll of Honor last term.

District No. 8—Tebbetts.

Both terms taught by Cora E. Moore.

The teacher labored hard, and the pupils, particularly the younger ones, showed good progress. The attendance here was quite wonderful; all but one being on the Roll of Honor last term.

ROLL OF HONOR.

CENTER.

FIRST TERM.	SECOND TERM.
Collins, Alonzo	Hall, Ora M.
Gale, Elmer A.	Stevens, Ina M.
Hall, Ora M.	Sanborn, Katy H.
Sanborn, Katy H.	Sanborn, Charlie F.
Stevens, Ina M.	Wilkins, Belle W.
Sanborn, Chas. F.	Wilkins, Stella F.
Wilkins, Stella F.	

BAY HILL.

FIRST TERM.	SECOND TERM.
Marden, Geo. M.	None.

HODGDON.

FIRST TERM.	SECOND TERM.
Shaw, Albert B.	Shaw, Albert B.
Shaw, Alice G.	Shaw, Alice G.

RAND.

FIRST TERM.	SECOND TERM.
Cram, Herbert L.	Cram, Herbert L.
Maxfield, Ida B.	Forrest, Annie R.
	Weymouth, Frank E.

OAK HILL.

FIRST TERM.	SECOND TERM.
Braley, Irene	Dow, Guy
Dow, Lura A.	Dow, Levi S.
Dow, Guy	Keniston, Edith M.
Dow, Levi S.	Keniston, Eliza
	Lambert, Mabel G.
	Lambert, Eva W.

BEAN HILL.

FIRST TERM.	SECOND TERM.
None.	Kimball, Geo. E.

POND.

FIRST TERM.	SECOND TERM.
Cross, Arthur B.	Cross, Arthur B.
Cross, Robert Lee	Cross, Evie M.
Glines, Josie A.	Conant, Abbie M.
Glines, Henry W.	Glines, Josie A.
	Glines, Henry W.
	Lovejoy, Agnes M.
	Lovejoy, Marcie Dawn

TEBBETTS.

FIRST TERM.	SECOND TERM.
Allen, Etta B.	Allen Etta B.
Downing, Nellie E.	Downing, Nellie E.
Haines, Mattie D.	Downing, Cora B.
Jaquith, John L	Haines, Mattie D.
	Jaquith, John L.
	Tebbetts, Lizzie, F.
	Wheeler, Hattie M.

Arthur B. Cross, not absent a half day for four years.
Albert B. Shaw, " " " three "
Ora Hall, " " " two "
Nellie Downing " " " " "

STATISTICAL TABLE.

No. of District.	Name.	Weeks of School.	No. of Pupils.	No. in Reading.	No. in Spelling.	No. in Arithmetic.	No. in Geography.	No. in Language.	No. in Book-keeping.	Visits from Parents.	Visits of Prud. Com.	Tardiness.	Absences half day.
1	Center, . .	17	16	16	13	11	8	7	2	14	1	0	250
2	Bay Hill, .	23	6	6	6	6	5	3	0	1	0	21	87
3	Hodgdon,	20	8	8	6	6	4	1	0	8	3	0	44
4	Rand, . . .	18½	20	20	20	16	7	10	3	5	0	52	60
5	Oak Hill, .	17	26	26	26	19	12	6	0	8	0	21	474
6	Bean Hill,	18	8	7	7	3	2	0	0	7	2	5	91
7	Pond, . . .	16	9	9	9	9	6	7	1	4	1	2	40
8	Tebbetts, .	13	8	8	8	4	4	2	0	9	2	0	20
	Total,		101										1066